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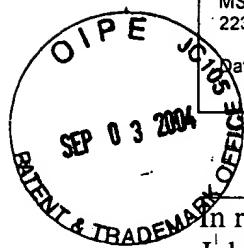
SEP 9 2004

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Docket No. 47171-00290USPT
(PATENT)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 8-31-2004 Signature: Carol Martin
Carol Martin



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
John E. Jones

Application No.: 09/899727

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: July 5, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: AUTOMATED PAYMENT SYSTEM AND
METHOD

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 17 of this paper.

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01 FC:1202 486.00 OP
02 FC:1201 258.00 OP

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